(c) Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment (Department of Rural Development) is the Nodal Ministry for framing the National Policy and guidelines for rehabilitation and resettlement of displaced persons.

Panel to Study Ground Water Level

1849. SHRI V.P. DURAISAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have appointed a penal to study ground water availability in the country; and

(b) if so, the details there of along with their objectives?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) The Government have not appointed any Panel to study ground water availability in the country. However, a Committee was constituted by the government in November, 1995 to review the methodology for estimation of ground water resources. The recommendations of the Committee which were finalised in June, 1997 were accepted by the government and all ground water organisations of the States were, advised to make estimation of ground water resources on the basis of revised methodology.

Central Assistance for Tista Barrage Project

1850. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:
SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) details of the Central assistance so far granted for Tista Barrage Project in West Bengal;

(b) break-up indicating the grant and loan components separately with interest rate in the case of loan;

(c) whether additional Central assistance of Rs. 150 crore had been approved during Eighth Plan;

(d) if so, the amount released during eighth Plan; and

(e) estimated cost of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (e) At present first sub-stage of Stage I of Phase I of Tista Barrage Project with latest estimated cost of Rs. 1177 crores is under construction. Planning Commission released a special Central Assistance of Rs. 5 crores in the year 1983-84, an advance plan assistance of Rs. 10 crores in 1986-87 and Rs. 10 crores during 1987-88. Further, during VIII Five Year Plan an amount of Rs. 150.00 crores was provided by the Planning commission as additional Central Assistance for this project. Also during last three years the project was provided Central Loan Assistance under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme amounting to Rs. 5.0, Rs. 15.00 and Rs. 10.00 crores respectively. The interest rate is prescribed by the Ministry of finance on year to year basis.

Financial Outlay for Godavari

1851. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any estimate been formulated by the Central Water commission on the financial outlay required to utilise atleast 75% of the water flow in the river Godavari;

(b) if so, the details of minimum cost at current prices to achieve 75% water utilisation of the river Godavari;